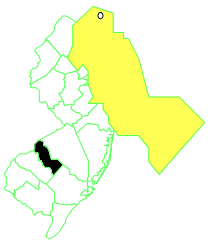
SWOPE OIL & CHEMICAL CO.

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD041743220



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Camden County
Pennsauken Township

Site Description

The Swope Oil & Chemical Company Site is located in an industrial area in northern Pennsauken Township. The 2-acre site is bordered by a railway and National Highway. The Swope Oil & Chemical Company, a chemical reclamation facility, operated from 1965 until 1979, processing solvents, oils, paints, and other chemical compounds. The site included one main building, a "distillation house", a drum storage area, an unlined lagoon, a diked tank farm, and an area containing buried sludge waste. The soil and shallow groundwater in the area are contaminated, as well as the deeper aquifer beneath the site. Waste liquids and sludges were discharged to an excavated, unlined lagoon. Contaminated materials also were placed within a diked tank farm and in an exposed drum storage area. In 1975, after several inspections, Swope was cited by the State of New Jersey for operating without proper permits. Four years later, it was cited again, this time for failure to prepare, maintain, and implement a Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plan. The company ceased operations in late 1979. Approximately 17,000 people reside in the area and depend on groundwater from municipal wells. A municipal well, which is currently inactive, is located 175 feet south of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 07/01/82
Final Date: 09/01/83

Threats and Contaminants

Surface soil was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), phthalates, and metals. The groundwater is primarily contaminated with VOCs. Subsurface soil, which is primarily contaminated with VOCs, continues to

serve as a source of groundwater contamination. The contamination in the aquifer beneath the site could lead to drinking water contamination.

Clean up Approach

The site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases focusing on removal of contaminants and cleanup of the groundwater and soil.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1984, in accordance with an Administrative Order on Consent, potentially responsible parties, with EPA oversight, removed lagoon sludge containing hazardous material, and drummed waste. In addition, a temporary cap was placed over contaminated sludge lagoons to prevent the further migration of contaminants. A security fence was built around the site.

Removal of Contaminants: In 1985, the EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) which selected the following cleanup methods for surficial contamination: (1) removal of tanks and buildings with off-site incineration, treatment, or disposal of tank contents, and off-site disposal of tanks and building debris; (2) construction of a cap at the site; (3) preparation of a supplemental investigation to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination and to identify alternatives for cleanup; (4) excavation of up to 1 ½ feet of contaminated soil containing PCBs and off-site disposal; (5) excavation of up to 1 ½ feet of PCB-contaminated soils below the lagoon and off-site disposal; and (6) sampling, excavation, and off-site disposal of contaminated soils containing PCBs from the parking lot area and along the railroad right-of-way adjacent to the lagoon.

In September 1991, EPA signed a ROD which selected a remedy for the treatment of contaminated subsurface soils which are contributing to the contamination of groundwater. The selected remedy called for the in-place treatment of volatile and semi-volatile organic subsurface soil contaminants through soil vapor extraction with biodegradation. In addition, the groundwater will be monitored to assess the impact of the site on groundwater. In July 1993, a judicial Consent Decree was entered which required that a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) design and implement the remedy selected in the 1991 ROD.

Site Facts: Cleanup activities at the Swope Oil site are being conducted by a group of PRPs, collectively known as the Swope Oil Cleanup Committee, under monitoring by the EPA.

Cleanup Progress  **(Threat Mitigated by Physical Clean-up Work)**

PRPs, with EPA oversight, have removed large quantities of the contaminated surficial materials and soils from the Swope Oil & Chemical Co. site, thereby mitigating the threats posed by exposure to these materials. As part of initial cleanup measures, PRPs removed 3000 tons of lagoon sludge containing hazardous material, and drummed waste from the site. In addition, a temporary cap was placed over contaminated sludge lagoons to prevent the further migration of contaminants. Furthermore, a security fence was built around the site to restrict access.

As part of the surface cleanup effort, the PRPs have completed the following actions: excavation and off-site disposal of more than 24,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and backfilling of excavations; removal and disposal of 70 tanks and their contents; removal of asbestos-containing insulation; and removal of cesspool and septic structures with associated hazardous liquids.

The soil vapor extraction system, installation of which was completed in February 1997, is currently operating at the site. The soil vapor extraction system is designed to treat approximately 245,000 cubic yards (392,000 tons) of soil. Approximately 19,840 pounds of volatile organic contaminants have been extracted from subsurface soils through November 2001 by operation of the soil vapor extraction system. Remediation of the contaminated subsurface soils should minimize the site's contribution to groundwater contamination. In addition, a five-year groundwater monitoring program was initiated in December 1996. Data generated as part of the groundwater monitoring program will be utilized to determine whether active groundwater remediation is necessary at the site. EPA has postponed installation of a cap over the site, since the treatment of subsurface soils in place may make installation of the cap unnecessary.